

Remarks

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, and 15 are independent. Claims 1, 2, and 15 are amended. Claims 5-6 and 16 are cancelled, without prejudice.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102(b) and 103(a)

Claims 1-4 and 7-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Sato (USPN 5,754,745). Claims 5-6 and 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sato (USPN 5,754,745) in view of Minamizawa (USPN 6,064,490). Applicant submits that the claims, as amended, distinguish over the cited references. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims is requested.

Independent claims 1, 2 and 15 have been amended to require that the controller causes the printer to print the image stored in the image memory if a vacant area in the image memory is less than a predetermined value. This limitation was formerly present in dependent claims 5 and 16, which have been canceled.

The Action acknowledges that Sato does not disclose causing the printer to print the image stored in the image memory if a vacant area in the image memory is less than a predetermined value, but asserts that Minamizawa provides such a teaching. Applicant respectfully disagrees. According to Minamizawa, an inhibition means inhibits reception of data concerning a specific one of a plurality of functions when a judging means judges that a remaining capacity of the RAM 33 is at or below a predetermined value (Minamizawa, Col. 5, lines 42-46). Thus, when the remaining capacity of the RAM 33 is at or below a predetermined value, further reception of data is inhibited.

Independent Claims 1, 2, and 15, by contrast, require that the controller causes the printer to print the image stored in the image memory if a vacant area in the image memory is less than a predetermined value. Thus, neither Sato nor

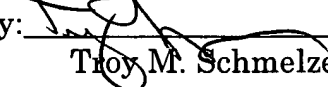
Minamizawa, taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest all limitations of claims 1, 2 and 15. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 1, 2, and 15, along with all claims dependent thereon, are now in allowable form.

This application is now believed to be in form for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6700 to discuss any steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Please charge any fees due in connection with this response to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: September 10, 2004

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